

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Serra Obiol, Ramon

SERIAL NO.: 09/463,914

ART UNIT: 3724

FILED: February 1, 2000

EXAMINER: Florez Sanchez, O

TITLE: SYSTEM FOR FIXING ROTARY CUTTING DIES IN MACHINES FOR DIE  
CUTTING LAMINAR MATERIAL

REMARKS ON AMENDMENT "B"

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of May 8, 2001, a response being due by August 8, 2001, with this Request for Continued Examination, please consider the following remarks in conjunction with the amendments to the above-identified application as follows:

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendments, previous Claims 11 - 21 have been cancelled and new Claims 22 - 32 substituted therefor. Reconsideration of the rejections, in light of the foregoing amendments and present remarks, is respectfully requested. The present amendments have been entered for the purpose of distinguishing the present invention from the prior art and for the purpose of placing the claim language into a more proper condition for allowance.

In the Official Action, it was indicated that Claims 11, 13 - 14, 16 and 18 - 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by the Heard patent. Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Heard patent in view of the Smith patent. Claims 15 and 17

were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Heard patent in view of the Smith patent. Additionally, the claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as lacking an enabling disclosure.

In reply to the Official Action, Applicant has revised original Claim 11 in the form of new Claim 22. New Claim 22 recites that the "cutting die support cylinder" has "an outer surface". As such, the term "outer surface" will find its proper antecedent basis within the claim language. Claims 23 - 30 correspond to original Claims 12 - 19. Claim 31 reflects original Claim 20 but includes the term "stop" in place of the confusing term "butt". Claim 32 corresponds to original Claim 21 but replaces the term "coliso" with the phrase "slot extending outwardly therefrom and communicating therewith". It is also indicated that the head of the bolt is received "within said slot". As such, Applicant respectfully contends that the objections by the Examiner with respect to the language of Claims 11, 20 and 21 have been overcome with these amendments. The specification has been amended so as to replace the confusing term "coliso" with the term "slot".

Relative to the prior art rejection of previous independent Claim 11 (now Claim 22), Applicant respectfully contends that the Heard patent is far removed from the field of art of the present invention. The Heard patent is basically for a knife cylinder for cross-cutting or cross-perforating a continuous web having one open slot for receiving a knife substantially parallel to the axis of rotation of the cylinder (see column 1, lines 5 - 10). The present invention is a system for fixing rotary cutting dies to machines for die cutting laminar material (see page 1, lines 10 - 12 of the original specification). On this basis, Applicant respectfully contends that the Heard patent is from a completely different field of cutting art than that of the present invention. Fundamentally,

the present invention requires a system for the attachment of a plate-like cutting die to the outer surface of a cylinder. The Heard patent is directed to inserting a blade-like knife within a slot formed into the support cylinder. As such, there is no need, in the Heard patent, for various pneumatic devices for retracting or extending the bolts outwardly so as to engage holes formed in the cutting die.

Relative to independent Claim 22, as amended, Applicant respectfully contends that the bolt 46 in the Heard patent lacks the structure of the present invention as claimed in independent Claim 22. In the Heard patent, in column 4, lines 58 - 62, it is recited that:

Each spacer also has at least one set screw 46 bearing against shim 41 for setting the radial position of each spacer precisely relative to the knife cylinder, a feature that is usually needed only once during the assembly of the apparatus.

Inherently, a "set screw" is not the type of screw that is intended to move outwardly or inwardly for fixing the position of the cutting die. As such, the Heard patent lacks the limitation of "a working device for resiliently moving said bolt from a retracted position to an extended position". Also, unlike the limitations of Claim 22, the Heard patent does not have a bolt with a head extending outwardly of the cutting die support cylinder. Since it is the intention of the Heard patent to simply have a single knife edge extending outwardly of the support cylinder, there would be no need for a bolt head to extend outwardly therefrom. Since the purpose of the Heard patent is to cross-perforate paper, the extension of the head of the bolt 46 in the Heard patent beyond the outer surface of the cylinder would be detrimental to the functioning of the Heard device.

Also, in the Heard patent, the bolt 46 does not have a head secured to the cutting die when in the extended position. First, there is no "extended position" for the bolt 46 and there is not cutting

die affixed to the outer surface of the support cylinder. As was stated in the Heard patent in column 4, lines 53 - 56, "For purposes of attachment, at least one spacer 45 having a sloping face corresponding to the sloping face of the opposing wedge piece 43 and representing a pressure point is provided between knife 20 and the wedge piece." The set screw 46 simply bears against a shim 41 for setting the position of the spacer. This is an entirely different function and structure than that of the present invention.

With respect to the combination of the Heard and Smith patents, Applicant does note that the Smith patent shows the arrangement of a screw and a hole with a slot therein. However, the Smith patent lacks the pneumatic operation for moving the bolt from a retracted to an extended position. As such, there is no structure provided for resiliently moving the bolt in the manner of the present invention so as to secure the cutting blade 3 to a cylinder. Applicant respectfully also contends that there is no basis for combining the structure of the Smith patent with that of the Heard patent. The Smith patent is from an entirely different field of art than that of the present invention. There is nothing in common between the structure of the Smith patent and that of the present invention other than the slotted holes.

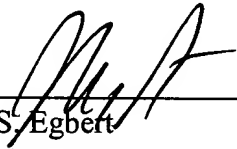
Based upon the foregoing analysis, Applicant contends that independent Claim 22 is now in a proper condition for allowance. Additionally, those claims which are dependent upon Claim 22 should similarly be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is

requested and allowance of the claims at an early date is earnestly solicited. Since no additional claims have been added above those originally paid for, no additional fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

7-26-01

  
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE in AMENDMENT "B"

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of May 8, 2001, a response being due by August 8, 2001, with this Request for Continued Examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 2, the paragraph beginning with "The holes (15)" and ending with "bolt (3)." has been amended as follows:

The holes (15) of the cutting die (1) have a ["coliso"] slot (16) provided with an adapter (17) in the shape of the head (7) of the bolt (3).

On page 7, third paragraph, beginning "Third stage" and ending "figure 8." has been amended as follows:

Third stage - In this stage the cutting die (1) must be moved axially towards the position of the ["coliso"] slot (16) and then eliminate the pressurized air from inside the pneumatic cylinder, thus obtaining that the spring (13) works and in this way moves the piston (6) and the bolt (3) towards the inside of the cutting die support cylinder (2), thus fixing the head (7) of the bolt (3) and the cutting die (1) to the cutting die support cylinder (2), as shown in figure 8.

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IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 11 - 21 were canceled. Claims 22 - 32 were newly added claims. There is no marked-up copy of these claims.